

DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

DISTRICT I

January 5, 2004

7:00 p.m.

Atwater Community Center, 2755 E. 19th, Wichita, Kansas 67214

Members Present

Council Member Brewer
Rickie Coleman*
Gerald Domitrovic
Treatha Brown-Foster
Lacey Ganther*
Lois Tully-Gerber
Lori Lawrence
Debra K. Miller
Debby Moore
Sharon Myers*
Celina Porter Robinson
Steve Roberts*
James Thompson
Ken Woodard

Members Absent

Guest List

Joann Hartig, 1756 S. Main
Carl Ligon, 1736 NE Parkway
Saretta Jones, 2621 N. Carmen
James Roseboro, 4518 Greenbriar
Dorothy Nave, 1802 Looman
Willie Burton, 2356 N. Poplar
Glen Dey, 4515 Greenbriar
Paula Givens, McAdams NA
Edward Jones, 2621 N. Carmen
Jesse Little, 1105 N. Hydraulic
John Polson, 621 N. Fountain
Marla Anderson, 1021 N. Cleveland

Staff Present

Virdena Gilkey, Neighborhood Assistant
Neil Cable, Engineering
Larry Hoetmer, Park Department
John Schlegal, MAPD
Jerry Blain, Water & Sewer
Officer Judi Jones, WPD
Jay Newton, Finance
Chris Carrier, Public Works

*Denotes District Advisory Board Alternates

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order

1st Pro-tem James Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m. and welcomed the guest.

Approval of Minutes

Tully Gerber referenced page 3 and asked that her wording be corrected to say that she also requested from the Planning Director that extra copies of items being presented be given to the public that attends. **Brown Foster (Tully Gerber)** motion to approve DAB I minutes as amended. Motion carried (7-0).

Approval of Agenda

John Polson requested to be placed on the agenda via the Neighborhood Assistant. **Brown Foster (Woodard)** made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously. (7-0).

Councilman Brewer arrived at 6:30 p.m., **Steve Roberts** arrived at 6:48 p.m., and **Celina Porter Robinson** arrived at 7:00 p.m.

Public Agenda

1. Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Presentation – 2004 - 2013

Jay Newton, Finance Department, reviewed the CIP and stated that this is a \$1.5 billion dollar program for 10 years. There are a total of 388 capital projects with several areas in the proposed CIP revenues, such as, rode projects funded through federal and state grants, neighborhood projects funded through special assessments, enterprise fees, water and sewer and other identified improvements.

Mr. Newton reported on the following areas and responded to DAB questions: 1) Storm Water has 25 projects of which 5 projects are specifically with streets; 2) Sewer has 28 projects, which includes a new Sewer Master Plan and an additional Sewage Treatment Plant in southwest Wichita; 3) Water has 61 projects. \$3.5 million will be allocated for replacing the water main; and 4) unscheduled projects, which are the largest issue and are prioritized within existing resources. Without additional state funding assistance, the city cannot provide continual construction on freeways.

The following is a summary of the items discussed and is not verbatim:

The Board identified expenditures for land acquisition at the airport and inquired about the expense and reason for that purchase. The DAB members identified that streets, other than arterials, are not covered in the CIP (specifically 13th and Hillside to Oliver and the Elm Neighborhood Association area). The DAB also inquired about the drainage problems throughout the city and more specifically, 21st Street and I-35, the lack of bus shelters in areas that were identified as needs in the previous CIP budget, unfinished sidewalks on 25th and Grove, apparent lack of water supply in the core area of the city, and exclusion of the McAdams Revitalization Plan. Citizen commented addressed concern as to why McAdams was not funded in the budget when extensive work has been done with the City of Wichita on this project.

(staff's response is in italics)

There were several questions concerning the CIP processes and how the budget is devised. These questions were: 1) what is meant by the first two years being capital budget as opposed to the following years? Is the budget based on current tax revenue?; *The tenure document is a capital plan. The first two years, 2004-05, are proposed to the council as a capital budget, which means that the city could initiate projects listed in the first two years. The budget is based from local and state revenues. This is a revenue-constrained document, which is calculated based upon previously approved tax levies and rates.* 2) In the airport expenditures, why are we buying land? *The land acquisition, under the airport, is for expansion and business development at Jabara, hangers, fixed based operations, etc.* 3) Are airport resources to replace the terminal? *It is more business support than passenger support, so no terminals are being replaced* 4) Item #55 is very hefty. What is that expenditure? *Item #55 is water supply for the future of Wichita, which includes improvements to supply water to Wichita through the year 2050.* and 5) Project #38. What is the source of money for that work? *Project #38 has to do with the replacement of existing sewer lines. This is done with CIP funds. In new areas, this cost is assessed to the property owner.* 6) #100 Neighborhood Improvement. Is that all that will be spent and where does that come from? *Neighborhood Improvements, #100, comes out of General Obligation Funds, which includes street improvements, etc,* and 7) Explain what is happening with the creeks.

Lastly, in regards to the creeks, ERU fees increased from \$1.40 to \$1.45 in 2004. With the ERU increase, we will be able to fund the first 14 projects. Projects 1-4 will be funded through the current ERU; projects 5- 14 will be funded through G.O. tax funds or grants, and projects 15-25 would require an increase of ERU from \$1.45 to \$2.10 by 2013.

Mr. Newton also explained that in order for projects to be moved up, the City Council would have to hear the recommendations and vote on those items.

The following changes were submitted for recommendation: 1) unfinished sidewalks at 25th and Grove; 2) McAdams Revitalization Plan; 3) proposed bus shelters; 4) drainage at 21st Street and I-35; and 5) 13th Street and Elm Street improvements.

Miller (Tully Gerber) moved that the proposed plan be accepted with the suggested changes. Motion carried 8-0.

Recommended Action: The board supported the plan with suggested additions.

2. Grove Park Playground

Larry Hoetmer, Landscape Architect, presented a brief history on Grove Park, showed maps, and explained the recent developments.

Mr. Hoetmer reported on the following improvements: 1) additional lighting for the football field; 2) a new parking lot; 3) K-96 bike path; 4) hired a consultant, Site Masters, to develop a historic design, which will allow children to learn more about the Chisholm Trail while playing (fossil, water pump, Indian lodge, farm silo, chuck wagon); and 5) no sand or gravel will be used and it will all be ADA accessible.

(Hoetmer's response in italics)

Councilman Brewer commented that an additional \$300,000 was received from left over funding from the Riverside Park project for Grove Park. *I had not been made aware of the monies from Riverside, but I will check in to it.* **Domitrovic** inquired about the \$600,000 allocated in the CIP and if that is future funding? Also, if the \$153,000 needed is just for the playground area and not for the silo? *Yes, that \$600,000 is for future allocations and only \$119,000 is currently available to develop the playground at this time. The coalition is working with different people for private donations. The \$153,000 does not include the silo. The silo itself is \$62,000.* **Brown Foster** asked why the \$600,000 allocated for Grove Park is delayed until 2009? *As far as the \$600,000 allocation in 2009, the CIP committee determines where the projects are placed on this list.*

Tully Gerber commented that she loved the use of natural elements in addition to the built environment – silo, chuck wagon, farm equipment, natural amphitheater, etc. She also gave compliments to the committee and the board. Ms. Tully-Gerber later added that Wichita State University might be willing to donate items, such as, sample cores for the education of children and suggested that Dr. Glen Dey, a former WSU professor, might be able to assist with this.

Joan Hartig, 1756 S. Main, commented that there are still no bathrooms. Mr. Hoetmer responded that unfortunately that is correct and has to do with infrastructure cost.

Dr. Glen Dey, 4515 Greenbriar, reported that they have been trying to work with USD 259 so that they feel a part of this. It is his belief that the school system would benefit and can utilize this Edutainment portion of the park. He added that this is going to be a community park. Chisholm Creek to K-96 is a natural area to be developed. When the coalition first met, they decided to kick it up a notch. They did report that they must have a restroom for the playground early on. Dr. Dey suggested that emphasis be placed on acquiring a restroom for the playground area.

Ken Woodard left at 8:00 p.m.

Additional comments and commendations were given to the coalition.

Miller (Tully Gerber) moved to support current CIP funding plus additional CIP funds be used to develop the 4 major items as recommended by the Grove Park Coalition and special consideration be made for an additional restroom near the playground area to be completed in 2005.

A brief discussion took place to understand the recommendation. Motion carried 7-1 (**Domitrovic opposed**).

Recommended Action: The board recommended support of the project.

Public Agenda

3. Scheduled items

John Polson, 621 N. Fountain, reported the following: 1) 8th & 9th N. Oliver to Glendale is slum property with half of the apartments boarded up (debris, junk cars, appliances); 2) east of Oliver on Elm, the water flows through that area and has been a problem for 25 to 30 years; 3) east of Hillside at the railroad tracks, which are west of the golf course – these tracks need to be taken up and removed as they are extremely old. He asked the councilman and the board to apply pressure to the railroad; and 4) 1300 N. Spruce and 25th & Minnesota has problems with pit bulls that need to be addressed. Police records can verify this problem

Councilman Brewer asked Officer Judith Jones to check into the properties at 8th and 9th on Oliver. **Tully Gerber** stated that the properties at 9th & Oliver are a mess and a major concern with two schools on the north and south side of this complex. Recently, there was a drug bust in that area. School children are at risk.

Lacey Ganther left at 8:27 p.m.

Brown Foster asked Dorothy Nave, President of NE Millair, to respond to the pit bull report by Mr. Polson. **Dorothy Nave, 1802 Looman**, responded that as far as she knows, there is not a problem. There are two puppies, not dogs that are inside a fence. The city built doghouses in that area for residents several years ago with the new development.

4. Off-agenda items

No items submitted

Staff Reports

5. Police Report

Officer Judith Jones reported the following: 1) 518 persons were served over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday. Toys, gifts, and food vouchers were given to those in need. She thanked the board and the community for their assistance.; 2) Chief Williams sent out an information advisory on crime rates in the City of Wichita. Officer Jones compared our rates with that of the National Clearance Rate from the FBI.; 3) the health inspector is working on the abandoned railroad tracks issue north of Elm to Hydraulic to Hillside; and 4) Officer Wallace has a huge project on pit bulls and has now set up a large reward system for information on pit bull fighting.

Recommended Action: The board received and filed.

Public Works Agenda

6. Edgemoor Park Sanitary Sewer Improvement

Rob Younkin, Public Works, explained that the City of Wichita's Capital Improvement Program includes an ongoing project to repair and replace sanitary sewer lines. A sewer located along the east side of Edgemoor Park, south of 9th, is in need of replacement. It serves an area generally bounded by 9th, Woodlawn, Farmview, and Farmstead. The existing sewer is an old clay pipe that has cracked and has root intrusion. It is undersized for the service area. The line will be taken out of service upon completion of the new sewer.

He further explained that the new sewer line will extend south from a manhole on the north side of 9th, east of Patricia along the east side of Edgemoor Park to Jacqueline, then west to a sewer line near the creek. The work is planned to begin next March and be complete in April. The estimated project cost is \$85,000. The funding source is the Sewer Utility.

(Rob Younkin response is in italic)

Tully-Gerber asked if this would improve flow and eliminate back flow in that area? *Yes. First of all it will give service and eliminate back flow as well as improve the basin that is further down stream.* **Domitrovic** asked when would construction begin? *In March 2004. The project is only 700 to 800 feet long and will minimize site obstruction.* **Roberts** commented that he hopes this does not close 9th Street. *It depends on who does this project.* **Councilman Brewer** asked for the minimum timeframe and distribution and what type of disruptions can be expected? *Part of February will be for getting out the bids for this 30- day project. Trenching and site decoration requirements will be included to minimize disruption and cost.*

Tully Gerber (Thompson) moved to support this project as defined. Motion carried 7-0.

Recommended Action: The board approved the project as submitted.

Unfinished Business

No items submitted

New Business

No items submitted

Board Agenda

7. Updates, Issues, and Reports

- 1) **Brown Foster** announced the MKL Celebration, the New Awards, the Battle of the Greeks Step Show, the African American Museum Celebration, and the church service on Monday, January 19th. All events begin on Friday, January 16th and ends on Monday, January 19th.

Also, Senator Sam Brownback is to participate in the parade.

- 2) **Councilman Brewer** reported the Holiday Party at Atwater was a great success and thanked the board for their hard work. He then presented each DAB member with a certificate and letter of appreciation.
- 3) **Carl Ligon, Ken Mar NA President**, updated to board on his neighborhood issue with dog issue and the mail service. He thanked the DAB for being there to hear his complaint. Currently, the association has gotten together with the Postal Service and the landlord and the problem tenants have been evicted, unfortunately, and the mail service has been restored. The landlord agreed to reimburse the residents who purchased mailboxes. A letter will follow the tenants with the dogs for all future moves.

As a result of our methods, the Postal Service will revisit how they handle these matters. They commended the association on their careful dialogue. He thanked the board for being here and listening.

- 4) **Councilman Brewer** announced the District 1 Coalition Breakfast Meeting, February 7, 2004, Cisro's Restaurant and the DAB 1 Meeting, February 2, 2004.

Recommended Action: The board received and filed.

Being no further business, **Brown Foster (Domitrovic)** made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Virdena Gilkey
Neighborhood Assistant